

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends the title and claims 1-15 and adds claim 16.

Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and new claim 16 may be found at least in paragraph [0043] and the original claims. The title and claims 2-15 are amended for clarity. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 3-10, 13, and 14 are allowed and that claim 12 recites allowable subject matter. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that all of claims 1-16 are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative during the October 16 personal interview. Applicant incorporates a separate record of the personal interview into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 11, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,896,396 to Yagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,730,913 to Remillard et al. (Remillard). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In particular, as discussed during the personal interview, Yagi and Remillard fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, "a component that reduces infrared light," "a polarized filter disposed at a position to block infrared light," or "polarized filtering means disposed at a position to block infrared light," as respectively recited in claims 1, 11, and 15 (emphasis added).

The Office Action appears to allege that the infrared transmitting film 22 of Yagi is equivalent to Applicant's claimed component, polarized filter, and polarized filtering means (Office Action, p. 3). However, the infrared transmitting film 22 of Yagi transmits¹ infrared

¹ Transmit is commonly defined as "to cause to spread" or to "pass on" American Heritage College Dictionary, p. 1437 (3ed. 1997). This is consistent with the use of the term in Yagi.

light (see, e.g., C4/L57-63). That is the infrared transmitting film 22 allows infrared light to pass rather than reducing or blocking the infrared light. Furthermore, the glass plate 21 of Yagi, by virtue of being transparent glass, transmits both infrared and visible light (C5/L5-15). Accordingly, there is no structure disclosed in Yagi that can reasonably be considered to reduce or block infrared light. As a result, Yagi fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, "a component that reduces infrared light," "a polarized filter disposed at a position to block infrared light," or "polarized filtering means disposed at a position to block infrared light," as respectively recited in claims 1, 11, and 15 (emphasis added). Remillard fails to make up for this deficiency of Yagi.

Because Yagi and Remillard fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, "a component that reduces infrared light," "a polarized filter disposed at a position to block infrared light," or "polarized filtering means disposed at a position to block infrared light," claims 1, 11, and 15 are patentable over the combination of Yagi and Remillard. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

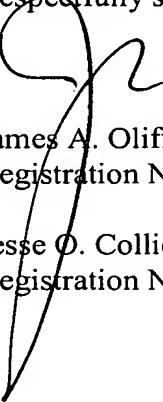
The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yagi and Remillard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,809,479 to Shimomura et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that the combination of Yagi and Remillard discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the features of claim 1 (Office Action, p. 3). Because, as discussed above, the combination of Yagi and Remillard does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claim 1, the rejection is improper. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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